REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 15-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 are independent. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are amended. Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 have been previously canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge their claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed with the present application on March 23, 2000.

Drawings

The Examiner is requested to provide a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, Form PTO-948, indicating whether the formal drawings are approved by the Official Draftsperson, with the next official communication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 04-246720 to Tsugo et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,914,717 to Kleewein et al. Claims 6, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsugo et al. in view of Kleewein et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,750 to Roberge et al. Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsugo et al. in

view of Kleewein et al., and further in view of Ermel et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of any of these rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended to recite a combination of steps in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first color, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and the first lower menu level being displayed in a second color that is different from the first color, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be generated, the selected second menu and the second lower menu level being displayed in a third color that is different from the first and second colors.

Independent claim 2 is amended to recite a combination of steps in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first manner, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and first lower menu level being displayed on the menu screen in a second manner that is different from the first manner, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be

generated, the selected second menu and the second lower menu level being displayed in a third manner that is different from the first and second manners.

Independent claim 3 is amended to recite a combination of steps in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first manner, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and the first lower menu level being displayed in a second manner that is different from the first manner, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be generated, the selected second menu and the second lower menu level being displayed in a third manner that is different from the first and second manners.

Independent claim 4 is amended to recite a combination of steps in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first manner, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and the first lower menu level being displayed in a second manner that is different from the first manner, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be generated, the

selected second menu being displayed in a third manner that is different from the second manner.

As explained in the Amendment dated November 18, 2003, Tsugo et al. is directed to a hierarchical menu system stored in a menu file 2 and having an identification code for identifying a level I, II, or III to which an element menu belongs, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. A color pattern of a frame representing each menu level is stored in a menu frame pattern file 3, where each level is of a different color. As shown, red is for level 1, green is for level 2, and yellow is for level 3.

As conceded on page 2 of the Office Action, Tsugo et al. does not teach that a selected menu and a corresponding lower menu level are displayed in a second color that is different from a first color in which other menus are displayed. The Office Action turns to Kleewein et al. for this teaching. Kleewein et al. is directed to a system for displaying menus which includes a menu 48, menu item 50, a menu marker 52 and a fly out menu 54, as shown in FIG. 4. When a mouse cursor 36 points at the menu marker 52, the fly out menu 54 is displayed. Moreover, the menu item 50 and the fly out menu 54 are displayed using the same color. Although Kleewein et al. teaches a selected menu item and a corresponding lower menu level being highlighted using the same color, Kleewein et al. does not teach selecting a second menu item from the lower menu level, causing a second lower menu level to be generated, wherein the selected second menu item and the second lower menu level are

displayed using the same color or in the same manner, as required by the present invention.

Therefore, Kleewein et al. does not teach or suggest a "menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first color, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and the first lower menu level being displayed in a second color that is different from the first color, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be generated, the selected second menu and the second lower menu level being displayed in a third color that is different from the first and second colors," as recited in claim 1.

Kleewein et al. does not teach or suggest a "menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first manner, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and first lower menu level being displayed on the menu screen in a second manner that is different from the first manner, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be generated, the selected second menu and the second lower menu level being displayed in a third manner that is different from the first and second manners," as recited in claim 2.

Kleewein et al. does not teach or suggest a "menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first manner, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and the first lower menu level being displayed in a second manner that is different from the first manner, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be generated, the selected second menu and the second lower menu level being displayed in a third manner that is different from the first and second manners," as recited in claim 3.

Kleewein et al. does not teach or suggest a "menu screen comprising a menu level having a plurality of menus, each of which are displayed in a first manner, wherein selecting a first menu from the plurality of menus causes a first lower menu level to be generated, the selected first menu and the first lower menu level being displayed in a second manner that is different from the first manner, and selecting a second menu from the first lower menu level causes a second lower menu level to be generated, the selected second menu being displayed in a third manner that is different from the second manner," as recited in claim 4.

In rejecting claims 6, 11 and 12, the Office Action relies on Roberge et al. for a teaching of displaying menus and menu levels using different shadings, where a selected menu and corresponding menu level are displayed using a shading that is different from the other menus and menu levels. Applicants

respectfully traverse this interpretation. As explained in the Amendment filed on November 18, 2003, Roberge et al. shows several views of a navigation structure on a computer screen in in which selecting a menu causes the selected menu to become shaded and causes a corresponding lower menu level to be generated, as shown in Figs. 7-11, for example. However, the selected menu and corresponding lower menu level are not shaded in the same manner or distinguished from other menus and menu levels on the screen. Roberge et al. does not teach or suggest the above-cited limitations of claims 2, 3 or 4. Therefore, Roberge et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Tsugo et al. with respect to claim 2, as incorporated in claim 6. Moreover, Roberge et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Tsugo et al. or Bloomfield et al. with respect to claims 3 and 4, as incorporated in claims 11 and 12, respectively.

In rejecting claims 15-17, the Office Action relies on Ermel et al. for a teaching of blocks that are displayed three-dimensionally so as to show their height. However, Ermel et al. does not teach or suggest the above-cited limitations of claims 2-4 and, therefore, cure the deficiencies of Tsugo et al. or Kleewein et al. with respect to claims 2-4.

It is respectfully submitted that the combinations of steps set forth in amended independent claims 1-4 are not anticipated or made obvious by the applied prior art of record, including Tsugo et al., Kleewein et al., Roberge et al., and Ermel et al., and that independent claims 1-4, and the claims dependent

therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are, therefore, respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If any issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone Sam Bhattacharya, Reg. No. 48,107, at (703) 205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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